

Expanding the prison director's authority over boot camps

HB 1664 by Stiles/Bivins

- DIGEST:** HB 1664 would have allowed the director of the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ-ID, the state prison system) to limit the number of persons sent to alternative incarceration programs (boot camps) within TDCJ-ID. The bill would have deleted the requirement that boot camp participants to be segregated from other prisoners. It also would have deleted the stipulation in current law that boot camps are only for use by probationers.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "This bill would allow the executive director of the Texas Department of Corrections, Institution Division [TDCJ—ID]) to have an effective veto power over the use of shock probation by local district courts. While there is a true need to enhance the Texas Department of Correction's [TDCJ-ID's] ability to effectuate prison management techniques, this legislation runs counter to the desired result of expansion of community corrections and diversion programs and is ultimately not in the best interest of the criminal justice system of the state of Texas."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Mark Stiles, author of HB 1664, had no comment. Sen. Teel Bivins, sponsor of HB 1664, said the bill would have provided a necessary management tool for TDCJ-ID. "TDCJ-ID needs the ability to manage inmates in the incarceration program who become disciplinary problems without having to send the inmates back to a court," Sen. Bivins said. "I'd be happy to work with the governor in the future to meet her concerns."
- NOTES:** HB 1664 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.